Insert the following amended paragraph at Page 55, lines 17 through 24, through Page 56, lines 1 through 9 :

Herein, as shown in Fig. 9(A), when unsharp data Sus exhibit such characteristics that when it becomes less than level "La", G(Sus) increases, the density in the lower density region is regarded to be high, and image data Sorg shown in Fig. 9(B) are regarded as image data Stb which are subjected to dynamic range compression in the lower density region as shown in Fig. 9(C). Further, as shown in Fig. 9(D), when G(Sus) exhibits such characteristics that when unsharp data Sus become less than level "Lb", G(Sus) decreases, the density in the higher density region is regarded to be high and image data Sorg, shown in Fig. 9(B), are subjected to dynamic range compression in the higher density region as shown in Fig. 9(E). Herein, levels "La" and "Lb" are obtained employing the same determining method employed to determine standard values S1 and S2 during the setting of the aforementioned gradation processing conditions.

REMARKS

The requested amendments are submitted to conform the specification with the drawings.

The amendment is fully supported by the Specification and drawings, will not require an additional search, and does not raise new issues. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that this Preliminary Amendment be entered and the requested changes made.